

Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration  
for the  
Land Management Plan for the San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area

*Prepared by:*

California Department of Fish and Game  
South Coast Region  
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## Availability of Documents

Copies of this Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration (IS/ND), together with copies of the Land Management Plan for the San Felipe Valley WA, are available for public review at:

California Department of Fish and Game  
4949 Viewridge Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92123

San Diego County Library  
Ramona Branch  
1406 Montecito Road  
Ramona, CA 91963

San Diego County Library  
Poway Branch  
13137 Poway Road  
Poway, CA 92064

San Diego County Library  
Borrego Springs Branch  
571-A Palm Canyon Drive  
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

California Department of Fish and Game Website  
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

The Department of Fish and Game is soliciting public comments on this IS/ND and the Draft Land Management Plan through December 12, 2007. Written comments should be transmitted to the Department on or before December 12, 2007. Comments should be addressed to:

Theresa Stewart  
California Department of Fish and Game  
4949 Viewridge Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92123



# Summary

This initial study and proposed negative declaration (IS/ND) evaluates the potential environmental consequences associated with the adoption and implementation of the Land Management Plan (LMP) for the San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area (SFVWA).

The SFVWA is located in northeastern San Diego County at the juncture of State Highway 78 and County Highway S-2 (San Felipe Road). It includes approximately 14,175 acres of largely undisturbed land acquired through a series of transactions by the California Wildlife Conservation Board and California Department of Fish and Game (Department). The WA is managed by the Department for its natural resources and for the public's use and enjoyment of those resources. The primary purpose of the LMP is to establish goals and guidelines for the operation, maintenance, and public use of the SFVWA. The Department will use the LMP to help guide the specific tasks for managing the habitats, species, cultural resources, facilities, public uses, and various other activities that occur in the WA.

Because the management and uses of the WA identified in the LMP entail activities that have the potential to alter the environment, the Department's implementation of the LMP is a "project" as defined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This IS/ND has been prepared in accordance with CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq.) and Sections 15063 and 15070-15075 of State CEQA Guidelines.

The Department finds that adoption and implementation of the LMP would result in less-than-significant impacts and proposes to adopt the negative declaration.





# Negative Declaration

Pursuant to Sections 15070 and 15071 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the California Department of Fish and Game (Department) proposes to adopt this Negative Declaration.

## 1. Title and Short Description of Project

Land Management Plan (LMP) for the San Felipe Valley WA (SFVWA).

The Department proposes to adopt and implement the LMP for the SFVWA. The SFVWA has a unique combination of important resources that reflect its location in the transition zone between the Peninsular Mountain Ranges and the Colorado Desert in northeastern San Diego County. The unique and special features of the SFVWA include: rare habitats that occur only in the Volcan Mountains or San Felipe Valley or represent the farthest known extent of their type; important fawning and summer foraging habitat for a large population of southern mule deer; a regionally important movement corridor for deer and mountain lions; special status plants and animals; significant cultural resources, including prehistoric Native American sites and historic structures from the late nineteenth century; and a designated scenic viewshed and scenic highway along San Felipe Road (County Highway S-2).

The primary purpose of the LMP is to guide the operation, maintenance, and public use of the SFVWA in accordance with the Department's mission to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public. The Department will use the LMP to prepare annual work programs and budgets for management of the WA, determine the types and locations of public uses allowed in the WA, develop long-term strategies for achieving the goals stated in the LMP, coordinate management activities with adjacent land owners and land managers, and provide a framework plan for management and public use of any lands added to the WA over time.

Under the LMP, the property would be maintained in its current undisturbed state and the wildlife-dependent public uses currently allowed in the WA would continue. Current public uses include hunting and hunting dog training. Hiking and horseback riding on existing roads also potentially would be allowed, but currently there are no designated hiking or riding trails in the SFVWA. All public access to the WA would be on foot. No motor vehicles, bicycles, or mountain bikes would be allowed. Special provisions for access by the disabled would be considered but are not yet proposed. Fencing and signage would be installed and maintained, an existing unpaved parking area would be expanded, the boundaries of the existing hunting dog training area would be expanded, existing unpaved roads and existing structures would be maintained. No construction of roads, trails, structures, or other facilities is proposed. Links to hiking and equestrian trails outside the WA would be considered; but there currently are no specific proposals for trail connections. Programs to restore and enhance habitats for special status, game, and common species would be implemented, together with programs for tamarisk and exotic weed removal, fire management, erosion control, stream monitoring, and scientific research. Public access to areas with sensitive resources (e.g., listed species, special status habitats, and cultural resource sites) would be restricted, and the resources would be managed to preserve their values. Resources and activities would be monitored, and management activities and public uses would be adjusted as needed in response to monitoring results. In addition, each component of the LMP includes guidelines for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating environmental impacts. Activities that would entail subsurface land alteration or direct impacts to sensitive resources would be subject to site-specific planning requirements and further CEQA review.

2. **Location of Project:** The SFVWA is located in the incorporated area of northeastern San Diego County, where State Highway 78 and San Felipe Road (County Highway S-2) intersect. Most of the 14,175 acres are west of S-2 and north of 78. Public access to the SFVWA is currently off of San Felipe Road, approximately six miles north of the juncture with Highway 78.

**3. Project Proponent:**

California Department of Fish and Game

**4. Said project will not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:**

As an action, adoption of the LMP by the Department would not result in environmental impacts. However, implementation of the LMP entails actions (e.g., habitat enhancement and vegetation management) that would physically alter the environment. Because of the types of management and uses planned, most actions would be expected to have beneficial effects or no or low adverse impacts. The potential effects were considered on a programmatic level as part of the planning process, and the proposed activities and uses include provisions to avoid and minimize impacts. In addition, actions entailing subsurface land alteration or impacts to protected resources would be subject to site-specific planning requirements and further CEQA review. Consequently, less-than-significant environmental impacts would be anticipated as a result of the adoption and implementation of the LMP.

**5. As a result thereof, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report pursuant to CEQA (Division 13 of the Public Resources Code of the State of California) is not required.**

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In accordance with Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Department of Fish and Game has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the proposed project and finds that the Initial Study and Negative Declaration reflect the independent judgment of the Department.

I hereby approve this project:

---

Kevin Hunting, Acting Regional Manager  
South Coast Region  
California Department of Fish and Game

# Environmental Checklist and Analysis

## 1. Project Title

Land Management Plan for the San Felipe Valley WA

## 2. Lead Agency Name and Address

California Department of Fish and Game  
4949 Viewridge Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92123

## 3. Contact Person and Phone Number

Theresa Stewart, Supervising Biologist  
Wildlife, Fisheries, and Lands Program  
858-467-4209

## 4. Project Location

The project is located in the State of California's San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area (SFVWA) in northeastern San Diego County. The SFVWA includes approximately 14,175 acres north, south, and west of juncture of State Highway 78 and San Felipe Road (Figure 1). The property extends north along San Felipe Road to approximately four miles south of the juncture with County Highway S-22. Public access to the area currently is off of San Felipe Road, approximately six miles north of the juncture with Highway 78.

## 5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:

California Department of Fish and Game  
4949 Viewridge Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92123

## 6. General Plan Designation

County of San Diego General Plan, General Agriculture  
(Draft General Plan 2020: Rural Lands and Open Space)

## 7. Zoning

County of San Diego, GA (1du/10, 40 ac)  
(Draft General Plan 2020: RL-80, RL-160, OS Recreation, OS Conservation)

## 8. Description of Project

The Department proposes to adopt and implement a LMP for the SFVWA. The LMP has two primary components: an inventory of natural and cultural resources on the property and a management program that identifies goals and tasks for managing those resources.

As proposed by the Department, the property would be maintained in its current undisturbed state and the wildlife-dependent public uses currently allowed in the WA would continue. Current public uses include hunting and hunting dog training. Hiking and horseback riding on existing roads also potentially would be allowed, but currently there are no designated hiking or riding trails in the SFVWA. All public access to the WA would be on foot. No motor vehicles, bicycles, or mountain bikes would be allowed. Special provisions for access by the disabled would be considered but are not yet proposed. Fencing and signage would be installed and maintained, an existing unpaved parking area would be expanded, the boundaries of the existing hunting dog training area would be expanded, existing unpaved roads and existing structures would be maintained. No construction of roads, trails, structures, or other facilities is proposed. Links to hiking and equestrian trails outside the WA would be considered; but there currently are no specific proposals for trail

connections. Programs to restore and enhance habitats for special status, game, and common species would be implemented, together with programs for tamarisk and exotic weed removal, fire management, erosion control, stream monitoring, and scientific research. Public access to areas with sensitive resources (e.g., listed species, special status habitats, and cultural resource sites) would be restricted, and the resources would be managed to preserve their values. Resources and activities would be monitored, and management activities and public uses would be adjusted as needed in response to monitoring results. In addition, each component of the LMP includes guidelines for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating environmental impacts. Activities that would entail subsurface land alteration or direct impacts to sensitive resources would be subject to site-specific planning requirements and further CEQA review.

## **9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting**

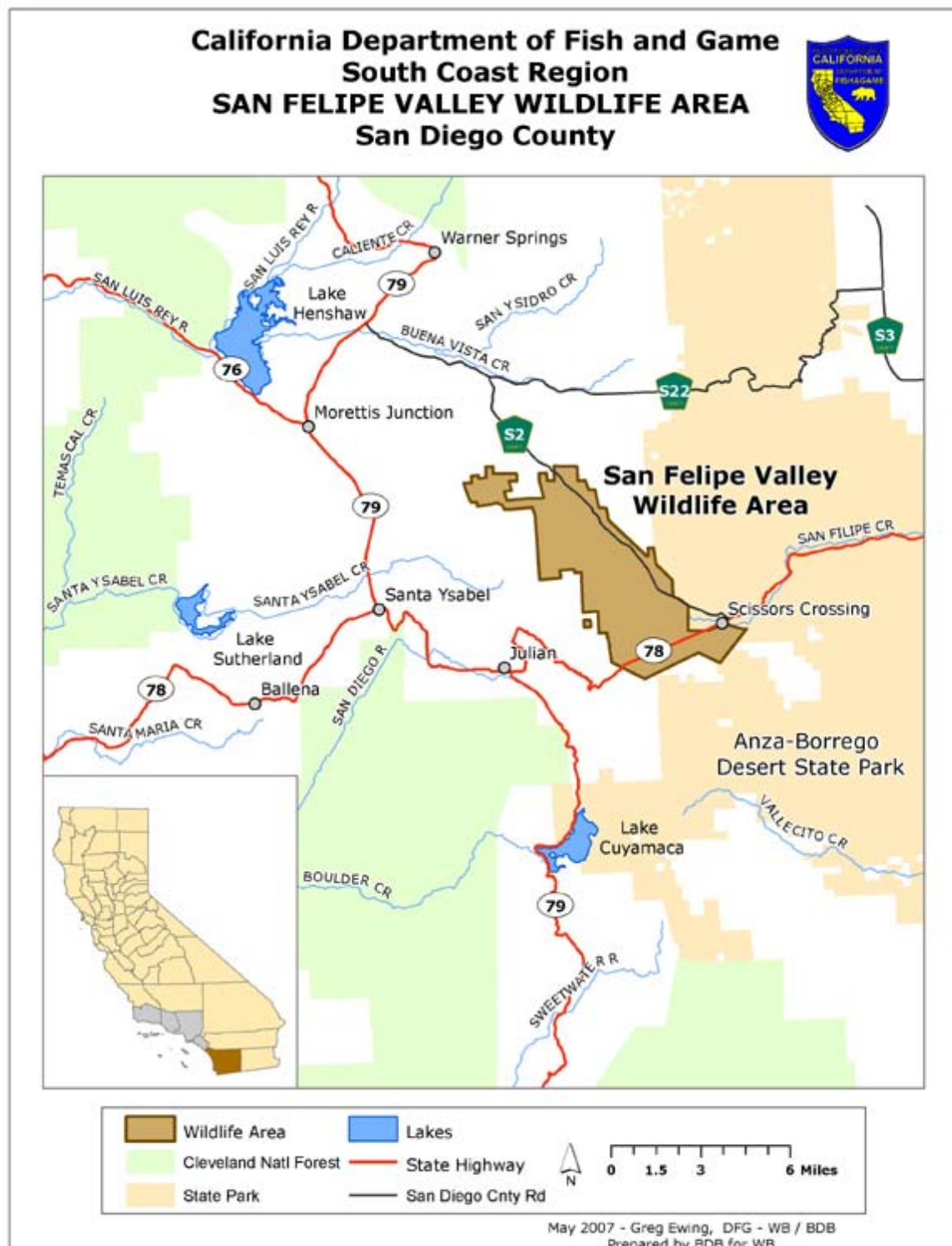
The WA is in unique transition zone between the Peninsular Mountain Ranges and the Colorado Desert. It encompasses most of San Felipe Valley, extending into the Volcan Mountains on the west and northwest and into the San Felipe Foothills on the northeast. The area provides dramatic views of Volcan Mountain's prominent ridgeline and the rugged valley floor valley and is part of a designated scenic viewshed along San Felipe Road (a designated Scenic Highway). All of the WA was part of two ranches (Rutherford and Rancho San Felipe) that were used mainly for grazing and remain largely undisturbed.

Most of the adjacent lands are public lands maintained in their natural state. As shown in Figure 2, these include San Diego County's Volcan Mountain Wilderness Preserve Park, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, and land managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. These public lands are used for conservation, resource management, and public recreation purposes. The Santa Ysabel Indian Reservation is located to the northwest. Private lands occur on the north, south, west, and east. These lands include the remaining portions of the Rutherford and Rancho San Felipe ownerships, other private ranches, and small parcels on the fringe of public lands.

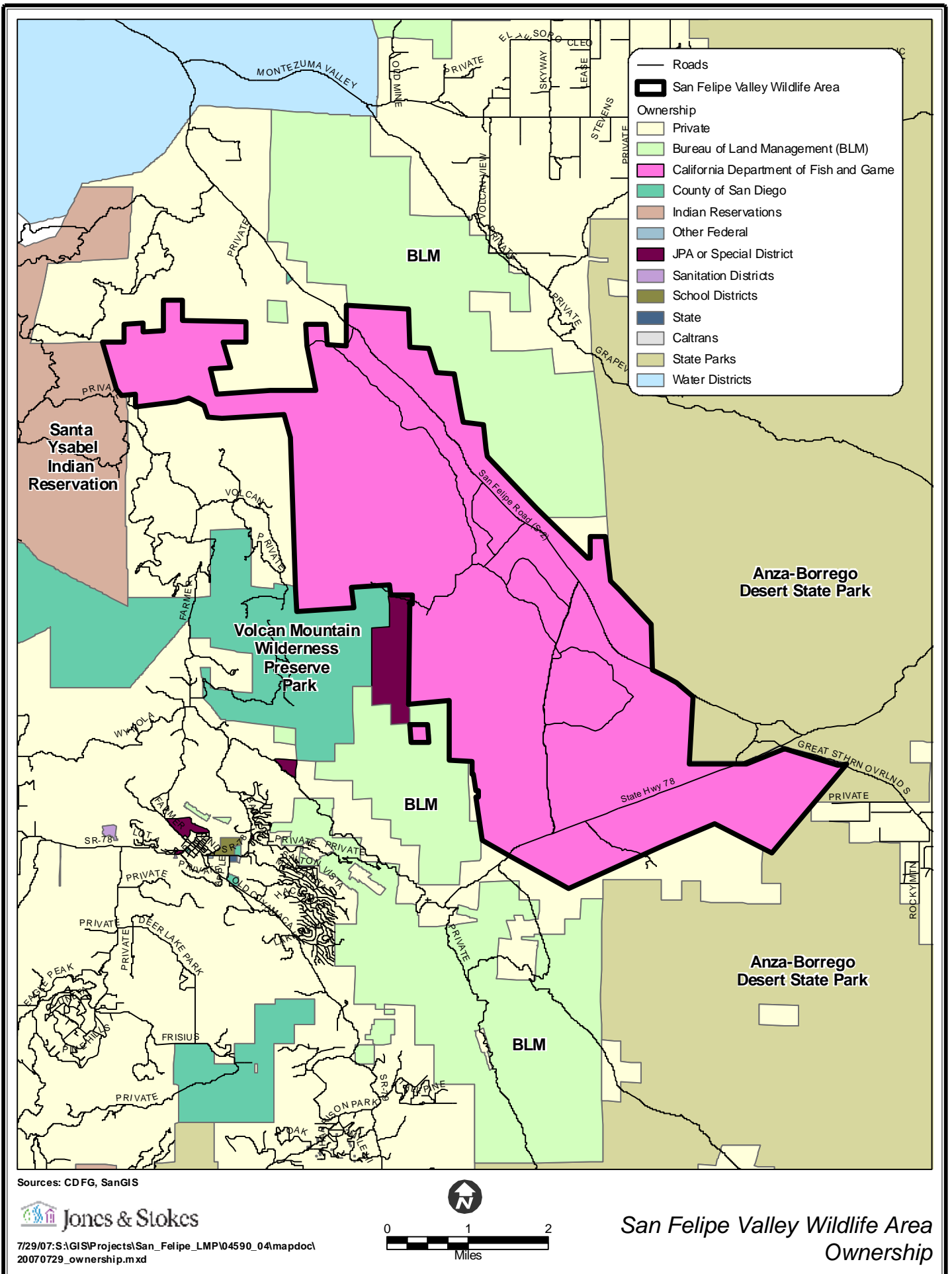
## **10. Other Public Agencies whose Approval is Required**

None

Figure 1. Location and Configuration of the SFVWA



## Figure 2. Land Ownership Adjacent to the SFVWA



**Environmental Factors Potentially Affected:**

The environmental factors checked below would potentially be affected by this project (i.e., the project would involve at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact"), as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources             | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources            | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality            | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources               | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems       | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |   |

**Determination:**

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions to the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have an impact on the environment that is "potentially significant" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis, as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the project, nothing further is required.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Hunting, Acting Regional Manager  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
For

# Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except “No Impact” answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A “No Impact” answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” answer should be explained if it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off site as well as on site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required.
4. “Negative Declaration: Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated” applies when the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from a “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less-than-Significant Impact”. The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less-than-significant level.
5. Earlier analyses may be used if, pursuant to tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration (Section 15063[c][3][D]). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
  - (a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where earlier analyses are available for review.
  - (b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - (c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are “Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated,” describe the mitigation measures that were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, when appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. Supporting Information Sources. A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project’s environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
  - (a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - (b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>I. AESTHETICS.</b> Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings along a scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.</b> In determining whether impacts on agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation. Would the project:				
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or conflict with a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>III. AIR QUALITY.</b> When available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is a nonattainment area for an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.</b> Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marshes, vernal pools, coastal wetlands, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>V. CULTURAL RESOURCES.</b> Would the project:				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS.</b> Would the project:				
a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
1. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or that would become unstable as a result of the project and potentially result in an onsite or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems in areas where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.</b> Would the project:				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Emit hazardous emissions or involve handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
d. Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Be located within an airport land use plan area or, where such a plan has not been adopted, be within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, and result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip and result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.** Would the project:

- |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, resulting in a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on site or off site?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding onsite or offsite?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area, as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect floodflows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j. Contribute to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING.</b> Would the project:				
a. Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, a general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>X. MINERAL RESOURCES.</b> Would the project:				
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>XI. NOISE.</b> Would the project:				
a. Expose persons to or generate noise levels in excess of standards established in a local general plan or noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Expose persons to or generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
e. Be located within an airport land use plan area, or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport and expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Be located in the vicinity of a private airstrip and expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING.</b> Would the project:				
a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Displace a substantial number of existing housing units, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Displace a substantial number of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES.</b> Would the project:				
a. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or a need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:				
1. Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>XIV. RECREATION.</b> Would the project:				
a. Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XV. TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC.</b> Would the project:				
a. Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in the number of vehicle trips, the volume-to-capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Cause, either individually or cumulatively, exceedance of a level-of-service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Substantially increase hazards because of a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.</b> Would the project:				
a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or would new or expanded entitlements be needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.</b>				
a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



# Explanation of Checklist Answers

## I. Aesthetics

### a., b., c., d. No Impact.

The proposed project is on lands that are part of scenic viewshed and a portion of a designated scenic highway (County Highway S-2) runs through the WA.

The project would not have adverse impacts on the viewshed or historic resources along the scenic highway because no structures or changes to the landscape are proposed that would alter existing natural visual resources in the viewshed or remove designated historic structures. The project would preserve the natural landscape in its current configuration and would not add structures or lighting that would obscure the view. Public access to viewpoints would not be impeded, and existing vantage points within the WA would provide the public with additional opportunities to enjoy the scenic vista.

## II. Agriculture

### a., b., c. No Impact.

Cattle grazing and a limited amount of farming occurred in the past on the lands within the WA. However, there are no active agricultural uses on the lands currently, and none of the lands are under a Williamson Act contract. Portions of the WA have soils that are mapped as Farmland of Statewide Importance (Rositas loamy coarse sand, Mottsville loamy coarse sand, and Ramona sandy loam), but these areas are not in production. Agriculture uses are not proposed in the LMP but are not precluded. Some areas used for farming in the past potentially would be enhanced and restored to native habitat; however, this would not entail converting existing farmland to non-farmland uses. The proposed project would not adversely impact farmlands.

## III. Air Quality

### a., b., c., d., e. No Impact.

San Diego County is in non-attainment for the 1-hour concentrations under the California Ambient Air Quality Standard (CAAQS) for Ozone ( $O_3$ ). San Diego County is also in non-attainment for the annual geometric mean and for the 24-hour concentrations of particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns ( $PM_{10}$ ) under the CAAQS. VOC sources include any source that burns fuels (e.g., gasoline, natural gas, wood, oil); solvents; petroleum processing and storage; and pesticides. Sources of  $PM_{10}$  in both urban and rural areas include: motor vehicles, wood burning stoves and fireplaces, dust from construction, landfills, agriculture, wildfires, brush/waste burning, and industrial sources of windblown dust from open lands.

Management and public use of the WA would not result in emissions of significant quantities of criteria pollutants listed in the CAAQS or toxic air contaminants as identified by the California Air Resources Board. Increases in vehicular trips would be minimal because the LMP does not propose new activities or uses that would attract a substantial number of additional visitors and thereby vehicle trips to the site. Management would not entail any substantial land disturbance or odor-producing activities and would not occur near a sensitive receptor. Potential air quality impacts associated with wildfires would be the same or reduced compared with existing condition. Any prescribed burns in the WA would be planned and conducted by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection under the State Vegetation Management Program. The project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of  $PM_{10}$ , or any  $O_3$  precursors and would not conflict or obstruct with the implementation of the RAQS nor the SIP on a project or cumulative level.

#### IV. Biological Resources

##### a., b., c., d. Less-than-Significant Impact

##### e., f. No Impact

Based on the 2004-2005 habitat assessment, approximately 10,800 acres in the WA are shrub and scrub habitats, primarily acacia and mesquite scrub, chaparral, and California juniper. The remainder is a combination of forests and woodlands and grasslands and forbs (Table 1 and Figure 3). Approximately 8 miles of San Felipe Creek runs through the WA, together with a network of tributaries. San Felipe Creek is a perennial stream; however, only portions of the creek within the SFWVA have year-round flow. Banner Creek runs across the southern portion of the WA just north of Highway 78 and merges with the San Felipe near the eastern edge of the area. In addition to the creeks and tributaries, there are various seeps, springs, man-made ponds, and man-made wells with troughs that provide habitat for aquatic species. All of the naturally occurring aquatic habitats in the area are special status habitats. Fifty of ninety-two vegetation communities types identified in the area are considered rare in San Diego County or statewide. Several of the rare types occur only in the Volcan Mountains or San Felipe Valley or represent the farthest known extent of the type.

Three state and federally listed bird species have been observed in the WA: least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow-flycatcher, and yellow-billed cuckoo – all associated with riparian habitats. The listed unarmored threespine stickleback also occurs in the WA, as an introduced species planted in a stream in the southeastern portion on the WA on the border with Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Non-listed special status species known to occur include: badger, black-tailed jackrabbit, California pocket mouse, grasshopper mouse, Jacumba pocket mouse, little pocket mouse, Los Angeles pocket mouse, mountain lion, northeastern (desert) San Diego pocket mouse, San Diego (coastal) pocket mouse, Townsend's big-eared bat, western mastiff bat, cactus wren, Cooper's hawk, ferruginous hawk, golden eagle, horned lark, loggerhead shrike, long-eared owl, merlin, northern harrier, northwestern willow flycatcher, prairie falcon, sharp-shinned hawk, vermilion flycatcher, western burrowing owl, yellow warber, yellow-breasted chat, California legless lizard, coast patchnose snake, Coronado Island skink, red diamond rattlesnake, San Diego horned lizard, silvery legless lizard, banner liveforever, Engelmann oak, intermediate larkspur, Payson's jewelflower, San Diego sunflower, and San Felipe monardella. The WA also supports populations of game species, including southern mule deer, quail, doves, wild turkey, and rabbits. A large population of southern mule deer moves in and out of the WA seasonally, using the area as fawning habitat and for summer forage and shelter. The valley also is a regionally significant movement corridor for deer and mountain lions. Preliminary studies also suggest that the canyons in the WA may be important foraging routes for bat species in the area.

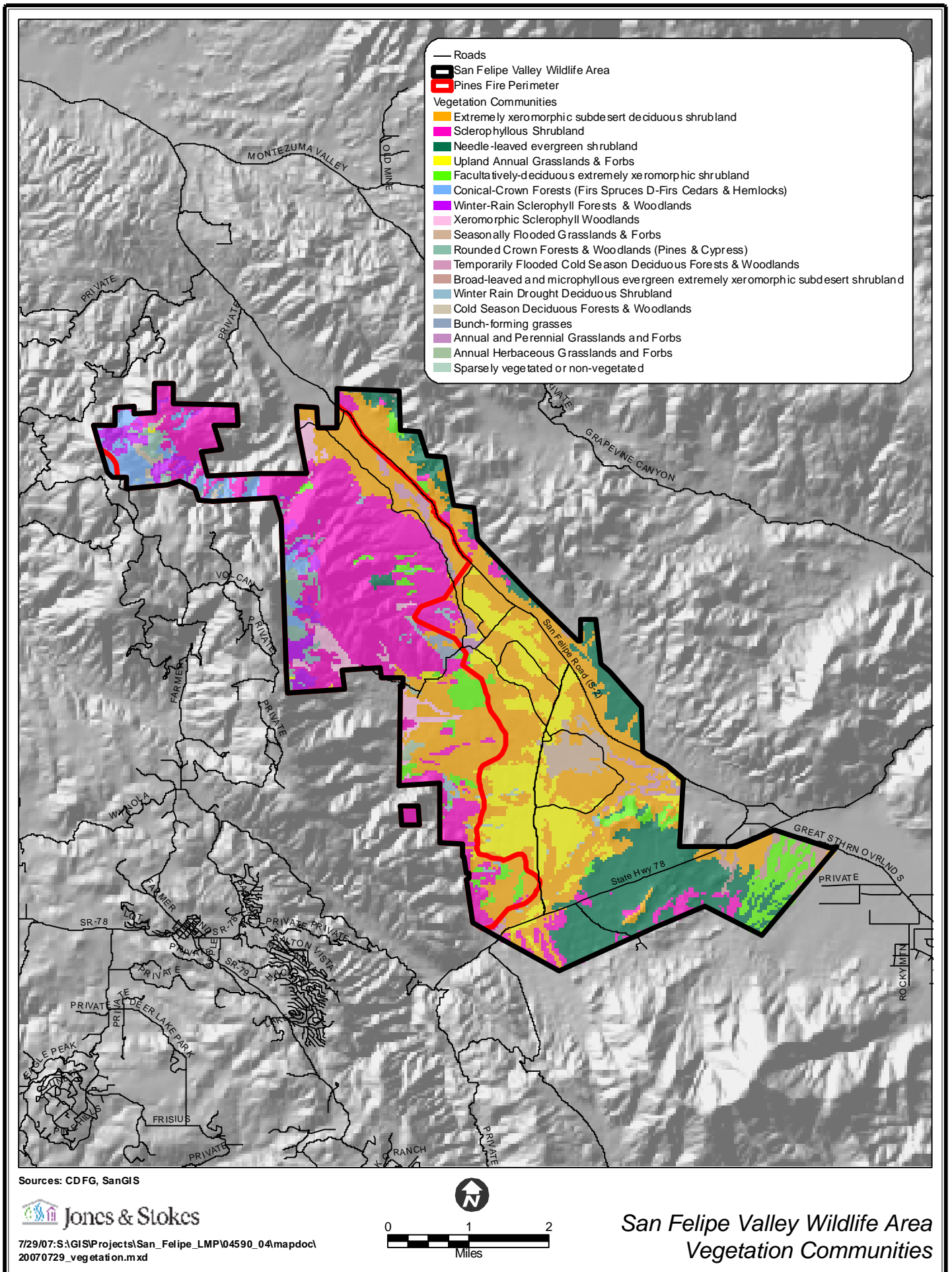
As part of the planning process for the LMP, the Department considered the potential for management activities and public uses to have adverse impacts on the WA's biological resources. Activities and uses that entail some level of land or stream disturbance include:

- Installation and maintenance of access controls;
- Identification and management of cultural resources;
- Fire management
- Habitat enhancement
- Habitat restoration
- Parking area expansion and maintenance
- Current and future public uses
- Road maintenance and use
- Scientific research
- Species surveys and monitoring

**Table 1. Vegetation Types in the SFVWA by MCV Classification**

MCV Classification	Acres
Evergreen and Deciduous Forests and Woodlands	
Rounded Crown Forests & Woodlands (Pines & Cypress)	217
Temporarily Flooded Cold Season Deciduous Forests & Woodlands	194
Cold Season Deciduous Forests & Woodlands	65
Conical-Crown Forests (Firs, Spruces, Douglas-Firs, Cedars & Hemlocks)	361
Winter-Rain Sclerophyll Forests & Woodlands	345
Xeromorphic Sclerophyll Woodlands	306
Subtotal	1,488
Evergreen and Deciduous Shrublands	
Extremely Xeromorphic Subdesert Deciduous Shrubland	4,298
Sclerophyllous Shrubland	3,642
Needle-leaved Evergreen Shrubland	1,872
Facultatively-deciduous Extremely Xeromorphic Shrubland	706
Broad-leaved and Microphyllous Evergreen Extremely Xeromorphic Subdesert Shrubland	150
Winter Rain Drought Deciduous Shrubland	130
Intermittently Flooded to Saturated Deciduous Shrubland	7
Microphyllous Shrubland	2
Subtotals	10,807
Perennial and Annual Grasslands and Forbs	
Upland Annual Grasslands & Forbs	1,395
Semi-permanently to Permanently Flooded Grasslands & Forbs	2
Bunch-forming Grasses	58
Annual and Perennial Grasslands and Forbs	42
Annual Herbaceous Grasslands and Forbs	41
Seasonally Flooded Grasslands & Forbs	234
Subtotal	1,772
Other	
Sparsely Vegetated or Non-vegetated	32
Urban/Developed	3
Note	
MCV     Manual of California Vegetation (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf 1995)	

Figure 3. Vegetation Communities in the SFVWA (MCV Classifications)



To ensure that activities would not result in significant impacts, the management program includes measures and guidelines for avoiding impacts to protected resources. In addition, activities that would entail subsurface land alteration or would impact protected resources are subject to site-specific planning requirements and further CEQA review. Table 2 identifies the management activities and public uses with the potential to impact biological resources, the impact avoidance and minimization measures built into the activities and uses under the LMP, and the basis for the determination that impacts would be less-than-significant.

There are no conflicts between the management program and the County of San Diego's biological resource policies and ordinances or with the natural community conservation plans being prepared by the County for unincorporated lands in northern and eastern San Diego County. The County ordinance does not apply to State lands but the conservation of the resources in the WA is consistent with the intent of the ordinance. The two conservation plans being developed by the County are part of the Department's natural community conservation program, and the Department is an active participant in both.

**Table 2. Analysis and Explanation of "Less-than-Significant" Impacts to Biological Resources from Management Activities and Public Uses in the WA**

Activity/Use	Potential Biological Impacts	Impact Avoidance and Minimization Identified in LMP	Basis for "Less-than-Significant Impact" Determination
Access controls: installation and maintenance of fencing, barriers (including vegetation), and signage	<p>Direct disturbance from post installation and replacement</p> <p>Temporary displacement of sensitive species at site or in habitat crossed to reach the site</p> <p>Possible habitat alteration, depending on plant species used for barriers</p> <p>Stream habitat degradation from erosion/sediment associated with installation and use of vehicles on and off roads.</p> <p>Potential impediments to deer and mountain lion (and other species) movement</p>	<p>Activity planned using database showing location of sensitive biological resources</p> <p>Time of year restrictions to avoid bird breeding season and vehicle use on roads during rainy season</p> <p>Guidelines for materials and methods used for fencing and signage</p> <p>Guidelines for selection of plant barriers</p> <p>Guidelines for wildlife-friendly barriers and crossings</p>	<p>Small amount of habitat disturbed, low potential for habitat degradation</p> <p>Potential for direct impacts to special status species minimized</p> <p>Barriers designed to be wildlife-friendly</p>
Cultural resource sites: identification and protection	<p>Temporary and permanent removal of surface vegetation and displacement of species at archeological sites</p> <p>Changes in vegetation at protected sites (plant species used as barriers or removed because of effects on structures)</p> <p>Alteration of habitat and species' access to it, including but not limited to use of caves and structures by bats</p>	<p>Activity planned using database showing location of sensitive biological resources</p> <p>Excavation subject to site-specific planning</p> <p>Guidelines for selection of plant barriers and vegetation management</p> <p>Bat-friendly access control measures for mines, structures that may qualify as historic sites</p>	<p>Land disturbing activities subject to same impact avoidance requirements as other activities in protected habitats</p> <p>Site-specific excavation plans subject to CEQA review and other regulatory requirements</p> <p>LMP provides opportunity to coordinate biological and cultural resource preservation</p>
Fire management: suppression and post-fire clean up and remediation	<p>Direct impacts to special status habitats and species</p> <p>Degradation of habitats from post-fire clean-up</p>	<p>Activity subject to site-specific planning with CalFire, will be planned using database showing location of sensitive resources</p> <p>Activity conducted in accordance with CalFire and Department regulations and policies</p>	<p>Fire management activities subject to CEQA review, either as part of CalFire programs or as site-specific plan for WA</p> <p>Plan provides opportunity to reduce impacts that would occur in absence of a plan</p>

Activity/Use	Potential Biological Impacts	Impact Avoidance and Minimization Identified in LMP	Basis for "Less-than-Significant Impact" Determination
Fire Management: vegetation management regimes (fuel reduction)	<p>Direct impacts to special status habitats and species from vegetation thinning, cutting, clearing, and prescribed burns</p> <p>Temporary displacement of species and habitat alteration in treatment sites</p> <p>Degradation of habitat from disposal of cuttings, slash</p>	<p>Activity subject to site-specific planning with CalFire, will be planned using database showing location of sensitive resources</p> <p>Same time of year, location, and methods restrictions that apply to other activities in areas with protected resources</p> <p>Activity to be conducted in accordance with CalFire and Department regulations and policies</p>	<p>Fire management activities subject to CEQA review, either as part of CalFire programs or as site-specific plan for WA</p> <p>Plan provides opportunity to reduce potential for devastating impacts from wildfires and improve habitat conditions by replicating natural succession.</p>
Habitat enhancement, including tamarisk removal and exotic invasive plant control	<p>Direct impacts to special status habitats and species from methods used to remove and add plant species and/or alter other physical conditions</p> <p>Temporary displacement of species and habitat alteration in treatment sites and adjacent areas (especially in habitat intergrade areas)</p>	<p>Activity subject to site-specific planning, will be planned using database showing location of sensitive resources</p> <p>Same time of year, location, and methods restrictions that apply to other activities in areas with protected resources</p> <p>Monitoring and success criteria requirements</p> <p>Activity to be conducted in accordance with Department and other applicable regulations and policies</p>	<p>Habitat enhancement activities in rare habitats, riparian habitats, aquatic habitats, and habitats with listed species subject to CEQA review and other regulatory requirements</p> <p>Expected to have direct and cumulative beneficial effects on habitats and species</p>
Habitat restoration, including fire recovery regimes	Same as habitat enhancement, with more land manipulation where planting occurs and in connection with management of new growth	Same as habitat enhancement, with additional requirement for erosion/sediment control in treatment areas (especially burn recovery areas)	Habitat restoration activities subject to CEQA review and other regulatory requirements. Review of fire recovery regimes can occur as part of CalFire fire management program or for site-specific plan for WA
Parking area: expansion and maintenance	<p>Displacement of species and removal of vegetation in expansion area</p> <p>Habitat degradation from surface runoff and sediment from parking area</p> <p>Increased potential for fires (sparks from vehicles)</p>	<p>No grading or paving of parking area (scrapping and compaction allowed)</p> <p>Erosion and surface run-off monitoring</p> <p>Vegetation management to control fuel load near parking area and entry</p>	<p>Location for expanded parking is disturbed habitat, near entrance. No special status species or habitats.</p> <p>Methods used do not preclude restoration of area in future</p>

Activity/Use	Potential Biological Impacts	Impact Avoidance and Minimization Identified in LMP	Basis for "Less-than-Significant Impact" Determination
Public use: Hunting	<p>Direct impacts to southern mule deer and other hunted species</p> <p>Indirect or incidental impacts to special status species</p> <p>Change in species diversity and population size</p> <p>Degradation and damage to special status habitats, including spread of exotic invasive weeds (seed dispersal), from pedestrian traffic</p>	<p>Limitations on time of year, location, type of game taken, and methods used; avoids most bird breeding seasons; deer hunting restricted to area outside of main fawning habitat.</p> <p>Pedestrian access only (avoids damage from vehicles, indirectly limits number of hunters)</p> <p>Access controls and monitoring of areas with highly sensitive species and habitats.</p> <p>Species and habitat management to maintain species diversity and population size</p> <p>Monitoring of hunting uses in WA (number of hunters, methods, frequency, game)</p>	<p>Hunting is a regulated activity and subject to statewide and WA-specific conditions, also recognized as part of game management.</p> <p>Potential impacts of more hunting in WA offset by increased management and protection of sensitive resources under the LMP</p>
Public use: Expansion and maintenance of hunting dog training area	<p>Direct disturbance from moving signage posts to new locations</p> <p>Temporary displacement of sensitive species at site or in habitat crossed to reach the site</p>	<p>Same as for fencing, signage installation</p>	<p>Small amount of habitat disturbed from repositioning of posts</p> <p>Potential for direct impacts to special status species minimized</p>
Public use: Use of expanded training area	<p>Direct impacts to special status grassland and scrub species</p> <p>Degradation of existing habitat from use and potential spread of exotic weeds</p>	<p>Activity planned using database showing location of sensitive biological resources</p> <p>Use confined to designated area</p> <p>Time of year restrictions to avoid bird breeding season</p> <p>Weed control program</p> <p>Use monitoring</p>	<p>No expansion of allowed uses (same uses in larger area)</p> <p>Use recognized as part of hunting an game management (trained dogs effectively retrieve downed game)</p> <p>Monitoring and weed control program effective means for averting potential problems</p>
Public use: future use of hiking and equestrian trails	<p>Disturbance of species in adjacent habitats</p> <p>Habitat disturbance due to off-trail excursions</p> <p>Degradation of habitat from use-related erosion sources</p> <p>Spread of exotic weeds (dispersal of seeds)</p> <p>Disruption of foraging and movement patterns</p>	<p>Limit all trail use to non-mechanical means (no motor vehicles, bicycles, or mountain bikes)</p> <p>Limit trail use to recreational hiking and nature walks on existing roads until through-routes are determined</p> <p>Establish guidelines for trail use to direct traffic away from sensitive resources and daytime foraging and movement corridors</p> <p>Require site-specific plans for proposed links to trail systems outside the WA</p>	<p>Recreational hiking and nature walks currently are allowed but are not a major use in the WA. This activity is not expected to substantially increase in the WA, and horseback-riding trails would not be designated, until through-routes to trail systems outside the WA are proposed and established. Establishing trail links to trail systems will be subject to further CEQA review.</p>

Activity/Use	Potential Biological Impacts	Impact Avoidance and Minimization Identified in LMP	Basis for “Less-than-Significant Impact” Determination
Road maintenance and road use (for management purposes)	Habitat degradation from surface runoff and erosion associated with unpaved roads and use of vehicles on roads  Road kill	Maintenance scheduled and conducted to avoid rainy season and multiple trips  Vehicle use of roads limited to land managers and emergency response  Monitor and control surface runoff and erosion	Low potential for direct habitat and species impacts  Regular maintenance will reduce habitat impacts from pre-existing road-related erosion sources.
Scientific research	Direct species and habitat impacts from surveys, studies, and experiments that entail land disturbance or take of specimens; impacts similar to those from cultural resource site identification, habitat enhancement, and habitat restoration.	Activity subject to approval by Department.  Researcher responsible for compliance with applicable regulations.  Activity to be conducted in accordance with Department policies and professional standards.	No research conducted without Department authorization. Authorization conditioned on compliance with Department policies and applicable regulations.
Species surveys and monitoring	Direct species impacts from activities that entail capture of specimens.	Activity must conform with the Department’s guidelines and, if applicable, those of US Fish and Wildlife Service. All surveys and monitoring will be overseen by the Department.	Guidelines specify measures and methods to avoid and minimize impacts.



## V. Cultural Resources

### a., b., c., d. Less-than-Significant Impact

San Felipe Valley is exceptionally rich in cultural resources, reflecting both its location at the crossroads between mountains and the desert and the history of the region. Artifacts, structures, and other cultural resources have been found in the valley that can be traced to the Kumeyaay native peoples who have lived in the region to at least 2000 years, Spanish settlements, the Southern Overland Trail, and the remains of historic occupation.

The northern half of the WA, excluding lands east of San Felipe Road, has been surveyed for cultural resources and found to contain multiple sites recommended for inclusion in the National Registry of Historic Places. The identified sites are being managed under an approved Archaeological Management Plan (AMP) prepared for the Department by Susan Hector, Ph.D. Identified resources include:

- A homestead site (circa 1890s)
- Buried sites
- Historic ranching remains/corral system
- Historic Rancheria site
- Prehistoric resources (mortars, slicks, flakes, milling features)
- 1880-1914 historic trash scatter

The southern half of the WA and the lands east of San Felipe Road are known to have medium to high potential (depending on location) for cultural resources but have not been surveyed. A records search covering these lands was conducted as part of the preparation of the LMP. Results of the records search indicate that:

1. There are no listed or recorded historic resources for Rancho San Felipe. There are several historic places of interest and historic sites adjacent to the project, or in the case of a roadway, that traverses the project. San Felipe Valley Road is a known historic travel corridor and early pioneer route. Scissors Crossing on the southeastern corner near the intersection of Highway 78 and San Felipe Valley Road is a historic place name adjacent to the San Felipe-Butterfield Stage Station site. The San Felipe Ranch complex within the project site may be of historical significance but has not been formally evaluated.
2. There are five recorded prehistoric sites in or near the area. These include sites with several bedrock mortars, obsidian flakes, quartz flakes and ceramics; a Kumeyaay/Tipai Rancheria or village; bedrock milling features with mortars and slicks; an isolated milling feature and shreds of Tizon Brown Ware, possibly from a single vessel (possibly offsite or on-site); and a circa 1880-1914 historic trash scatter possibly associated with the James Lowe homestead.

Under the LMP, the known sites would be managed and monitored as indicated in the AMP, surveys and appropriate follow-up actions would be required prior to land disturbing activities and public access to unsurveyed areas; and site-specific surveys and impact avoidance measures would be required for various management activities. Activities and uses that potentially would impact cultural resources in the WA are the same as those that potentially would impact biological resources (see above).

To minimize and mitigate impacts from activities and uses, the Department would implement the following measures identified in the LMP:

1. Conduct a field reconnaissance of the unsurveyed portions of the existing WA to assess the potential for cultural resource occurrence and prioritize areas for surveys and assessments.
2. Initiate the evaluation of the historic significance of the ranch complex and associated structures in the southern portion of the WA.
3. Confer with the San Diego County Archeological Society, California Native American Heritage Commission, the Kumeyaay tribes, and other interested parties on the accuracy of the database and focus areas for future updates.

4. Apply the treatment and monitoring measures identified in the LMP to the cultural resources found in the WA. The measures are based on the recommendations in the 2002 AMP and will be reviewed every five years and upon any changes in applicable regulations. Table 3 identifies those measures.
5. Where additional protections are needed, designate cultural resource buffers where restrictions will be put on management activities and public uses. The determination of where buffers are needed will be based on an evaluation of the sensitivity of the sites, proximity to use areas, and/or results of monitoring. Apply interim protection and monitoring measures to areas identified for further evaluation and areas where treatments are proposed but not yet scheduled. The interim measures may include fencing or other access control.
6. Develop and apply guidelines for the type of vegetation used to hide or protect cultural resource sites. The guidelines will identify appropriate tree and shrub species for the type of habitat in which the site occurs.
7. Incorporate the measures developed as part of the Integrated Planning Component into the treatment and monitoring regime for individual sites.
8. Continue the treatment and monitoring measures for Category 1-3 sites on the JPA transfer lands and the sites on Department lands covered by the 2002 AMP (see Table 3).
9. Apply the treatment and monitoring measures for other Category 1-3 sites identified in the WA (see table 3).
10. Implement interim protection and monitoring measures for the ranch complex, associated structures, and other areas designated for evaluation or future treatment.
11. Evaluate the need for cultural resource buffers in areas of the WA with multiple and/or highly sensitive sites, including but not limited to resources in the Arkansas Canyon unit.
12. Prepare an assessment of Category 1-3 sites that (a) identifies habitats, rare types, special status species, exotic invasive plants, roads, structures, and special use areas within a 0.5-mile or larger radius of the site; and (b) examines how the prescribed treatment measures might affect other management activities in the area (and vice versa). Use the results of the assessment to identify compatible management activities and ways to combine cultural resource and natural resource management tasks.

In addition to the above measures, the LMP requires site-specific plans for activities that would impact identified sites or would entail land disturbances in areas where additional sites might be found. The site-specific plans would be subject further CEQA review.

Implementation of the LMP would result in less-than-significant impacts to historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources or to human remains because management activities and public uses include measures to avoid known resources and look for other resources in advance of land disturbances. In addition, implementation of the LMP will facilitate protection of identified resources by integrating cultural and natural resource management into one program.

**Table 3. Treatment and Monitoring Matrix for Cultural Resource Sites**

<b>Category/Description</b>	<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>
Category 1: Resources that meet the eligibility criteria for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places <sup>1</sup> or are significant under CEQA <sup>2</sup> . The resources have integrity and are at risk for damage and vandalism.	1. Preserve resource in place. 2. Actively manage for preservation, through means such as: -- fencing <sup>3</sup> -- re-routing of trails -- stabilization and repair of historic structures and features, including providing covers for buildings or ruins -- capping with non-cultural soils <sup>4</sup> 3. Do not introduce incompatible elements: restoration and replacement of architectural features should be based on detailed and accurate representation of original features as substantiated by historical, physical, pictorial, or archaeological evidence. 4. Do not introduce plant materials in the site area that would undermine, damage, or modify the resource (e.g., invasive vining plants, surface roots of certain trees).	Every Year
Category 2: Resources that may be significant under CEQA but have reduced potential for damage due to topographic isolation, inaccessibility, or limited surface artifacts.	1. Preserve resource in place. 2. Other uses allowed nearby if there will be no direct access to the resources. 3. Avoid impacts through means such as: -- re-locating trails and activity areas -- adding vegetation to hide and protect the resource <sup>5</sup> -- limited stabilization of historic features	Every Two Years
Category 3: Resources that most likely do not meet National Register eligibility criteria and may or may not be significant under CEQA (includes resources used in interpretive programs and for research and study).	1. Preserve in place. 2. Other uses and modern amenities may be nearby. 3. Management may include: -- avoiding direct impacts -- adding vegetation to hide or protect the resource -- restoration or reconstruction of a historic building for interpretive use	Every Five Years
Category 4: Resources that do not require any additional consideration (includes sites where a data recovery program has been completed and isolated artifacts or objects).	1. Ensure that proper documentation has been completed and submitted to the appropriate agencies and organizations 2. If artifacts were collected, provide funds for curation at an appropriate facility.	Not Required
<b>Notes</b> 1. The National Register's evaluation criteria are as follows: The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and: (a) are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or (b) are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or (c) embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or (d) have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. Generally, the resource must be at least 50 years old to be eligible for consideration. 2. Under CEQA, a resource may be considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (Pub. Res. Code SS5024.1, Title 14, Section 4852) including the following: (a) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage; (b) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past; (c) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or (d) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. 3. The placement of fence posts should be monitored by an archaeologist. In general, a split-rail or lodgepole fence is effective in blocking access to a sensitive area. 4. Capping a site or a portion of a site where there is a trail or dirt road should be undertaken with the participation of an archaeologist. Considerations should include depth of the cap and trail safety issues; potential erosion of the soil or gravel cap; disturbance of the site during the capping process; maintenance of the trail or road. 5. Adding vegetation to protect a site should not include any disturbance of the surface of the ground, even if the site has been an agricultural field.		

#### IV. Geology and Soils

##### a., b., c., d., e. No Impact

Two geomorphic provinces dominate the regional geological setting of the WA: the Peninsular Ranges and the Colorado Desert. The Peninsular Ranges formed when the Pacific Plate began to move northwest relative to the North American Plate and caused a renewal of volcanic activity. The stress and tension of this movement formed the San Andreas Fault, which truncates the Peninsular Ranges and the Transverse Ranges. The Colorado Desert province has northwesterly geological structural trends exhibited by faults, mountain ranges, and the Salton Trough. In the Salton Trough, the most dominant structural features are faults. These trend northwest–southeast, and include the San Andreas, San Jacinto, and Elsinore fault zones. Along with their regional extensions, these faults account for the current geological structure of the region. San Felipe Valley lies between the Elsinore and San Jacinto faults zones and between Volcan Mountain and the San Felipe Hills. The geologic formations on the west reflect the forces that formed the Peninsular Ranges; those on the east reflect the ancient deposits of the Colorado River.

Based on USDA soil maps, 21 soil types occur in the WA. Seven types predominate: acid igneous rock, Bancas stony loam, Indio silt loam, Rositas loamy coarse sand (0-2% and 2-9% slopes), sheephead rocky fine sandy loam, and sloping gullied land. Table 4 identifies the types and their suitability rating for paths and trails.

Under the LMP, no construction or other activity is proposed that would require landform alterations or result in soil erosion or loss of topsoil. No septic systems or wastewater disposal systems are proposed. An erosion and sediment control program would be implemented, with a focus on the WA's unpaved roads and the gullies along creeks. The proposed project would not expose people or property to geologic hazards.

**Table 4. Soils Types in the SFVWA and Their Path/Trail Suitability Ratings**

Map Symbol	Unit Name	Erosion Hazard Rating/Reason <sup>1</sup>	Path and Trail Suitability Rating/Reason <sup>2</sup>
<b>Primary Types in SFVWA</b>			
AcG	Acid igneous rock land	Not Rated	Not Rated
BbE2	Bancas stony loam, 5-30% slopes, eroded	Severe Slope/erodibility	Limitations Dusty, Slopes 15-25%
IsA	Indio silt loam, dark variant	Slight	Limitations Dusty
RsA	Rositas loamy coarse sand, 0-2% slopes	Slight	Limitations Surface sand fractions 70-90% by wt.
RsC	Rositas loamy coarse sand, 2-9% slopes	Moderate Slope/erodibility	Limitations Surface sand fractions 70-90% by wt.
SpG2	Sheephead rocky fine sandy loam, 30-65% slopes, eroded	Severe Slope/erodibility	Limitations Slopes >25%
SrD	Sloping gullied land	Not Rated	Not Rated
<b>Other Types in the SFVWA</b>			
CtE	Crouch coarse sandy loam, 5-30% slopes	Severe Slope/erodibility	Limitations Slopes 15-25%
CuG	Crouch rocky coarse sandy loam, 30-70% slopes	Severe Slope/erodibility	Limitations Slopes >25%
LcE2	La Posta rocky loamy coarse sand, 5-30% slopes, eroded	Severe Slope/erodibility	Limitations Surface sand fractions 70-90% by wt., slopes 15-25%

Map Symbol	Unit Name	Erosion Hazard Rating/Reason <sup>1</sup>	Path and Trail Suitability Rating/Reason <sup>2</sup>
LdG	La Posta-Sheephead complex, 30-65% slopes	Severe Slope/erodibility	Limitations Slopes >25%, Surface sand fractions 70-90% by wt.
MnB	Mecca coarse sandy loam, 2-5% slopes	Slight	No limitations
MvD	Mottsville loamy coarse sand, 9-15% slopes	Moderate Slope/erodibility	Limitations Surface sand fractions 70-90% by wt.
RaB	Ramona sandy loam, 2-5% slopes	Moderate Slope/erodibility	No limitations
RaC	Ramona sandy loam, 5-9% slopes	Moderate Slope/erodibility	No limitations
RcD	Ramona gravelly sandy loam, 9-15% slopes	Severe Slope/erodibility	No limitations
RsD	Rositas loamy coarse sand, 9-15% slopes	Severe Slope/erodibility	Limitations Surface sand fractions 70-90% by wt.
Rm	Riverwash	Not Rated	Not Rated
SsE	Soboba stony loamy sand, 9-30% slopes	Severe Slope/erodibility	Limitations Surface sand fractions 70-90% by wt., slopes 15-25%
ToG	Tollhouse rocky coarse sandy loam, 30-65% slopes	Severe Slope/erodibility	Limitations Slopes >25%
SpE2	Sheephead rocky fine sandy loam, 9-30% slopes, eroded	Severe Slope/erodibility	Limitations Slopes >25%

#### Notes and Rating Descriptions

1 Potential erosion hazard from unsurfaced roads or trails based on soil erodibility factor Km slope, and content of rock fragments. The hazard is described as slight, moderate, severe, or very severe. Slight indicates that erosion is unlikely under ordinary climatic conditions. Moderate indicates that some erosion is likely and that erosion control measures may be needed. Severe indicates that erosion is very likely and that erosion-control measures, including revegetation of bare areas, are advised. Very severe indicates that significant erosion is expected, loss of soil productivity and off-site damage are likely, and erosion-control measures are costly and generally impractical.

2 Paths and trails for hiking and horseback riding should require little or no slope modification and can withstand heavy foot traffic. For good trafficability, the surface of the trail should remain firm under heavy foot traffic, be free of stones, and be dusty and dry. The suitability rating is based on soil properties that affect trafficability and erodibility. No limitations indicate that the soil has features that are very favorable for the specified use. Limitations indicate that the soil has features that are unfavorable for the specified use.

Source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Web Soil Survey 1.1, National Cooperative Soil Survey, accessed November 2006 off USDA website (<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>).

**VII. Hazards and Hazardous Materials****a., b., c., d., e., f., and g. No Impact.****h. Less-than-Significant Impact.**

The WA does not contain any known or suspected hazardous materials, and management of the WA would not require the use or storage of any hazardous materials on-site. The site is not located within an airport land plan area and is not within two miles of a public airport or private airstrip. Implementation of the LMP would not physically interfere with the County's adopted emergency response plan or evacuation plan because the amount of traffic generated by the WA would not have a noticeable effect of traffic volumes on designated routes and the total population in the area is small. The LMP would not increase the potential for wildfire hazards because the intensity of human use at the site would be very low.

Fire management activities in the WA have the potential to pose risks to people and structures in the WA and on adjacent lands. These risks would be less-than-significant because the LMP includes the following measures to avoid and minimize hazards to people and structures:

1. Working in cooperation with CalFire, develop and implement a fuel load reduction regime and schedule for the area around the ranch complex, WA entrance and parking area, along private roads that cross the WA, and along the portions of Highways 78 and S-2 that run through the WA.
2. Working in cooperation with CalFire, identify and prioritize treatment areas for habitat-focused vegetation management regimes.
3. Working in cooperation with CalFire, identify the management activities to be included in the annual pre-fire management plans for CalFire's San Diego Unit.
4. Coordinate vegetation management regimes in the WA with management of adjacent lands by State Parks, BLM, County of San Diego, Caltrans, Santa Ysabel Indian Reservation, and private landowners.
5. Prepare maps for CalFire use identifying roads, structures, staging areas, water resources, fences and gates, priority areas for impact avoidance, priority suppression areas, and post-burn recovery areas.
6. Work cooperatively with CalFire to develop and implement fire suppression, cleanup regimes, and remediation plans for the WA, with an emphasis on areas with adjacent residences and areas with protected resources.
7. Coordinate fire suppression, cleanup, and remediation plans for the WA with the those for the management of adjacent public lands.

In addition, the LMP requires site-specific plans for fuel reduction regimes. The impacts of those plans would be subject to further CEQA review, either as part of the CalFire's fire management program or as a site-specific plan for the WA.

**VIII. Hydrology and Water Quality****a., b., c., d., e., f., g., h., i. No Impact.**

The WA is located in a subunit of the Colorado River hydrologic region and includes a combination of permanent and intermittent surface waters. The Anza Borrego hydrologic unit (hu) of the Colorado River region and the San Dieguito hu and San Luis Rey hu of the South Coast region converge near San Felipe Valley. The Anza Borrego hu encompasses the headwaters, mainstems, and tributaries of Coyote, San Felipe, Carrizo, and Vallecito creeks, which converge and empty into the Salton Sea and the eastern edge of the hu. San Felipe Creek originates in the San Felipe hydrologic area (ha) at Teofulio Summit and is fed by at least 35 side-canyons on its 50-mile route to the Salton Sea. The WA is in the north central portion of the San Felipe ha, below the headwaters of the creek. Water quality in the WA has not been monitored since acquisition of the property by the Department. There are no major agricultural activities, mining operations, or extensive area of developed lands in adjacent areas that drain to the San Felipe hu. However, past agricultural and mining activities have contributed pollutants to the aquifer. In terms of existing sources within the WA, surface runoff from Highways 78 and San Felipe Road and sedimentation from unpaved roads and eroding slopes have the potential to degrade water quality in San Felipe Creek and Banner Creek. Neither creek is on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies.

Implementation of the LMP would not violate any water quality standard or waste discharge permit because the project would not result in the discharge of water or wastewater. The project would not deplete or affect groundwater because groundwater would not be utilized for any of its activities except refilling the wildlife watering devices and the existing ranch complex facilities. The LMP would not alter any of the existing drainage courses by grading, construction of new buildings or paved areas. The drainage pattern of the on-site creeks would not be altered, and the project would not increase the rate or amount of surface runoff. No housing units or other facilities would be constructed within a 100-year flood hazard area. The project site does not expose people or structure to flood risks in the event of dam or levee failure and is not subject to seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

**IX. Planning and Land Use**  
**a., b., c. No Impact.**

The established communities in northeastern San Diego County are located to the northeast, south, and southwest of the WA and would not be divided by implementation of the LMP or future expansion of the WA. The goals and proposed activities identified in the LMP are consistent with the North Mountain Community Plan in the existing County of San Diego General Plan and in the draft General Plan 2020. Except for the easement included in the Rancho San Felipe grant deed for federal trails, there are no trail easements on the property in question. Under the LMP, no new roads or trails are proposed for construction. However, the LMP does provide for the consideration of links to trail systems outside the WA, provided that the links are through-trails. As discussed in section IV, the Department is participating in the preparation of an NCCP that covers unincorporated lands in eastern San Diego County and another NCCP for unincorporated lands in northern San Diego County. Implementation of the LMP would be consistent with the goals identified for both NCCPs. There are no approved conservation plans that cover San Felipe Valley.

**X. Mineral Resources**  
**a. and b. No Impact.**

The WA includes coal and mineral mines that were operated in the late 19th and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The mines are not locally-important mineral resources, and no other mineral resources are known to occur onsite. Activities proposed within the WA would not involve the extraction of minerals or preclude future access to the mine sites. The proposed project would not conflict with mineral resource protection plans or result in the loss of a known mineral resource.

**XI. Noise**  
**a., b., c., d., e., and f. No Impact.**

Implementation of the LMP and operation of the WA would not result in any construction or human activity that would cause an increase noise levels that exceed the standards established in the County of San Diego General Plan Noise Element and Noise Ordinance. None of the activities proposed by the LMP would result in groundborne vibration or noise levels. Consequently there would be no short-term or long-term increase in ambient noise levels. Aircraft noise is not a factor at the WA because there are no airports or private airstrips within a 2-mile radius of the site.

**XII. Population and Housing**  
**a., b., and c. No Impact.**

Table 5 indicates the current and project populations of the County Community Planning Areas in the vicinity of the WA. The WA itself is within the North Mountain planning area, which has a current population of approximately 2,600 and is expected to grow to 5,300 by 2020. By 2020, the combined population in the identified planning areas is expected to triple, with the largest increase projected for the Borrego Springs.

Implementation of the proposed project would not induce growth to the area because no housing or commercial activities would be constructed and public services would not be extended to the area. No existing housing units would be removed nor would people be displaced.

**Table 5. Current and Projected Population of Community Planning Areas in Vicinity of WA**

Community Planning Area	Current Population	2020 Population
Julian	3,111	3,920
Palomar	245	520
North Mountain	2,619	5,280
Desert	679	1,410
Borrego Springs	2,592	14,030
Total	9,246	27,180
Source: County of San Diego GP2020 website accessed in October 2006 at <a href="http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/cnty/cntydepts/landuse/planning/GP2020/comm.htm">http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/cnty/cntydepts/landuse/planning/GP2020/comm.htm</a>		

**XIII. Public Services****a. and b. No Impact.**

The intensity and frequency of public use in the WA is expected to remain low, even with population growth in the region, because of the limitations put on access to and public uses of the WA. Implementation of the LMP would not require any fire, police, or other public services beyond those currently available. No new housing will be provided and no additional school or park services will be required. Proposed uses of the WA would not increase the potential for wildfire hazards because the LMP provides for increased management of fire risks from public uses and other sources. (Also see explanation in section VII.)

**XIV. Recreation****a. and b. No Impact.**

Implementation of the LMP would not increase the usage of existing parks or recreational facilities and would provide recreation opportunities (hunting) not offered on most adjacent public lands. The number of recreational users will be managed, as needed, to ensure that use does not exceed the carrying capacity of the natural resources or degrade existing natural features or recreational facilities. No new construction of active recreational facilities or other structures is proposed.

**XV. Transportation/Traffic****a., b., c., d., e., f., and g. No Impact.**

The number of people using the WA is expected to remain low, and the proposed project would not build any new structures or introduce uses that would generate a substantial number of new automobile trips. Traffic levels of Highways 78 and S-2 are expected to increase with growth in region, but the activities at the WA would contribute only minimally to added trips. The only traffic related improvement proposed is the expansion of the existing unpaved parking area near the entrance of the WA. No roadway improvements are proposed and the current emergency access to the site would not be affected. No vehicular use is permitted on the dirt access roads through the site (except for Department maintenance and emergency access). No alternative transportation systems exist at the site and none are proposed. Air traffic patterns would not be affected by the project.

**XVII. Utilities and Service Systems****a., b., c., d., e., f., and g. No Impact.**

A small number of people would use the WA, and the proposed project would not generate any new demand for public utilities or services. No new septic or wastewater systems are proposed. No storm drain facilities exist and none are proposed; the project would not result in an increase of storm water runoff. Potable water is currently provided by on-site wells and no new water facilities are required. A minimal amount of solid waste is currently generated at the site and no increase is anticipated as a result of implementing the LMP.



**XVII. Mandatory Findings of Significance****a. Less-than-Significant Impact****b. and c. No Impact**

As discussed in sections IV and V, implementation of the LMP entail activities and uses that potentially would result in adverse effects to habitats, wildlife species, and cultural resources. As minimized by the measures and guidelines in the LMP, the effects would not be expected to substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

The LMP does not authorize any substantive physical changes; and future projects, if any, will require subsequent environmental analysis when the specifics of a project are established. There are no impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.

Implementation of the LMP would not have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

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